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NEW COMBINATIONS IN *ACACIA* MILLER (LEGUMINOSAE: MIMOSOIDEAE)

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Summary

Names of six species and five subspecies are transferred from *Racosperma* Martius to *Acacia* Miller.

Though the application of evolutionary thought to classification is not new, its resurgence in recent years has imparted a new philosophical framework to explain similarity of taxa (Estes & Tyril 1987). Classifications have come to be viewed primarily as reflections of patterns of evolutionary divergence and only secondarily as utilitarian devices. The utilitarian aspect is often seriously underestimated. Verdcourt (1989) stated the matter plainly: 'Systematic botany is not a rarefied study existing solely for the interest of its practioners. It is supposed to provide stable names for use of other people ...'. As long as taxonomic research continues, names will change, but due consideration should be given to the users of names: ecologists, biogeographers, biochemists, agriculturists, veterinarians, to name just a few.

Users of plant names in Australia are disadvantaged at present because of the situation in two genera of major economic importance, *Acacia* Miller and *Cassia* L. It has been proposed that each be divided into smaller genera. Problems in the two differ however.

The work of Irwin and Barneby (1982) who divided *Cassia sens. lat.* into three, reinstating *Senna* Miller and *Chamaecrista* Moench, has been generally accepted. Randell (1988, 1989) has begun making combinations under *Senna* for Australian species formerly referred to *Cassia*. It is important to note, however, that names of most taxa of *Senna* are still available to workers under *Cassia*.

Regrettably the same is not true of the *Acacia-Racosperma* situation. Debate on the segregation of *Racosperma* Martius and *Senegalia* Raf. from *Acacia* (Pedley 1986) continues (see Pedley (1989) for the latest contribution and references). Most taxa of *Racosperma* have not been formally transferred from *Acacia*. Consequently workers do not have a complete list of names for taxa of either *Acacia sens. lat.* or *Racosperma* in Australia.

I propose to remedy this situation in part in this paper by transferring some names published under *Racosperma* to *Acacia*. The more correct but more onerous task of transferring some 800 names from *Acacia* to *Racosperma* must wait until or after publication of the appropriate volume of the *Flora of Australia*. As a corollary of this, taxa described by me as new will, in future, be referred to *Acacia*, regardless of whether they more properly belong to *Racosperma* or *Senegalia*. Their names, and the ones below, are not to be considered invalid under Article 34 of the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature (1988). They are names of convenience, but are accepted by the author.

Acacia armillata (Pedley) Pedley, **comb. nov.**

Racosperma armillatum Pedley, Austrobaileya 2: 325 (1987).

Acacia blakei subsp. **diphylla** (Tindale) Pedley, **comb. nov.**

Acacia diphylla Tindale, Telopea 1: 79 (1975).

Racosperma blakei subsp. *diphyllum* (Tindale) Pedley, Austrobaileya 2: 345 (1987).

Acacia julifera subsp. **curvinervia** (Maiden) Pedley, **comb. nov.**

Acacia curvinervia Maiden, Proc. Roy. Soc. Queensland 30: 34 (1918).

Racosperma juliferum subsp. *curvinervium* (Maiden) Pedley, Austrobaileya 2: 571 (1988).

Acacia meiosperma (Pedley) Pedley, **comb. nov.**

Racosperma meiospermum Pedley, Austrobaileya 2: 321 (1987).

Acacia ommatosperma (Pedley) Pedley, **comb. nov.**

Racosperma ommatospermum Pedley, Austrobaileya 2: 327 (1987).

Acacia plectocarpa subsp. **tanumbirinensis** (Maiden) Pedley, **comb. nov.**

Acacia tanumbirinensis Maiden in Ewart & Davis, Fl. N. Territory: 338 (1917).

Racosperma plectocarpum subsp. *tanumbirinense* (Maiden) Pedley, Austrobaileya 2: 354 (1987).

Acacia polyadenia (Pedley) Pedley, **comb. nov.**

Racosperma polyadenium Pedley, Austrobaileya 2: 322 (1987).

Acacia racospermoides Pedley, **nom. nov.**

Racosperma paniculatum Pedley, Austrobaileya 2: 324 (1987); non *Acacia paniculata* Willd. (1805).

Acacia spirorbis subsp. **solandri** (Benth.) Pedley, **comb. nov.**

Acacia solandri Benth., Fl. austral. 2: 406 (1864).

Racosperma spirorbis ('*spirorbe*') subsp. *solandri* (Benth.) Pedley, Austrobaileya 2: 355 (1987).

Acacia stipuligera subsp. **glabrifolia** (Maiden & Blakely) Pedley, **comb. nov.**

Acacia stipuligera var. *glabrifolia* Maiden & Blakely, Proc. Roy. Soc. Queensland 38: 120 (1927).

Racosperma stipuligerum subsp. *glabrifolium* (Maiden & Blakely) Pedley, Austrobaileya 2: 356 (1987).

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